

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A digital camera for capturing digital images and organizing the captured images for subsequent transfer from the digital camera to an external device that utilizes the digital images, comprising:

(a) means for providing a database having a plurality of customized profiles, wherein each customized profile contains a plurality of image utilization fields;

(b) means for selecting one of the plurality of customized profiles from the database;

(c) means for defining a plurality of profile indices respectively corresponding to ones of the plurality of customized profiles;

(d) an image sensor for capturing images;

(e) means for associating a profile index with at least one captured image to identify the corresponding selected customized profile; and

(f) storage means for receiving and storing the at least one captured image and the corresponding profile index.

2. The digital camera according to claim 1 wherein the database is a profile table.

3. The digital camera according to claim 1 wherein the storage means is a removable memory card.

4. The digital camera according to claim 1 wherein a plurality of captured images are associated with the same customized profile and stored in the storage means.

5. The digital camera according to claim 1 wherein the database is stored in the digital camera.

6. The digital camera according to claim 1 wherein the external device is a storage device and wherein the image utilization fields include an image format field indicating the format to be used for storage of the captured image in the storage device.

7. The invention according to claim 1 wherein the external device receives the captured image from the digital camera and wherein the image utilization fields include a field designating a user preferred software application stored in the external device adapted for utilizing the captured image.

8. The invention according to claim 1 wherein the external device receives the captured image from the digital camera and wherein the image utilization fields include a deletion field indicating whether the digital camera should delete the captured image from the storage means after storage of the captured image in the external device.

9. The digital camera according to claim 1 further including means defining a user designated code for permitting only authorized access to the selected profile.

10. The digital camera according to claim 1 wherein the image utilization fields include an identification field which identifies the particular digital camera which captured the corresponding image.

11. The digital camera according to claim 1 wherein the image utilization fields include a destination directory indicating a storage location in the external device for storing the corresponding captured image.

12. The digital camera according to claim 1 further including a Flash EPROM and wherein the database is stored in the Flash EPROM.

13. A digital camera for capturing digital images and organizing the captured images for subsequent transfer from the digital camera to an external device that utilizes the digital images, comprising:

- (a) an image sensor for capturing images;
- (b) means for storing a plurality of software application program identifiers which identify corresponding software application programs which are resident on the external device;
- (c) a user interface for selecting one of the plurality of software application program identifiers to be associated with at least one captured image; and
- (d) storage means for receiving and storing the at least one captured image and the associated software application program identifier.

14. The invention according to claim 13 wherein the external device receives the at least one captured image and the associated software application program identifier and invokes the corresponding software application program identified by the software application program identifier to process the at least one captured image in accordance with the corresponding software application program.

15. The digital camera according to claim 14 wherein the external device is a programmable computer.

16. A digital camera for capturing images and organizing the captured images for subsequent transfer from the digital camera to an external device that utilizes the digital images, comprising:

- (a) an image sensor for capturing a plurality of images;

- (b) storage means for storing the plurality of captured images;
- (c) means for storing an image deletion mode for each stored image which indicates that such stored image is to be deleted from the storage means after such stored image is transferred to the external device; and
- (d) a user interface for selecting the image deletion mode for at least one stored image.

17. A digital camera for capturing digital images and organizing the captured images for subsequent transfer from the digital camera to an external device that utilizes the digital images; comprising:

- (a) means for providing a profile table;
- (b) means for customizing the profile table to provide a plurality of customized profiles, wherein each customized profile contains a plurality of image utilization fields;
- (c) means for selecting a customized profile from the customized profile table which corresponds to desired image utilization fields;
- (d) means for defining a plurality of profile indices respectively corresponding to ones of the plurality of customized profiles;
- (e) an image sensor for capturing images;
- (f) means for associating a profile index to at least one captured image to identify the corresponding selected profile; and
- (f) storage means for receiving and storing the at least one captured image and the corresponding profile index.

18. The digital camera according to claim 17 wherein the means for customizing the profile table includes producing a new profile having a different plurality of image utilization fields with at least one of the image utilization fields being different.

18.⁹ The digital camera according to claim 17 wherein the means for customizing the profile table includes means for editing an existing profile to have a different plurality of image utilization fields with at least one of the image utilization fields being edited.

19.²⁰ A digital camera for capturing images and organizing the captured images for subsequent transfer from the digital camera to an external device that utilizes the digital images, comprising:

- (a) means for providing a database having a plurality of customized profiles, wherein each customized profile contains a plurality of image utilization fields;
 - (b) means for selecting one of the plurality of customized profiles from the database;
 - (c) an image sensor for capturing a plurality of images;
 - (d) storage means for storing the plurality of captured images;
- and
- (e) a user interface for selecting a user designated code corresponding to the selected customized profile for permitting only authorized access to the selected customized profile.

20.¹ A method for transferring customized images files stored in a removable memory card of a digital camera to an external device having image transfer application software, using a database having at least one customizable profile containing a set of image utilization fields, comprising the steps of:

- (a) using the image transfer application software to serially transfer a plurality of images files from the removable memory card to the external device;
- (b) accessing the set of image utilization fields;
- (c) modifying each transferred image file in accordance with the set of image utilization fields; and

(d) storing the modified transferred image file in a destination directory in the external device defined by one of the image utilization fields.

21.² The method according to claim 20 wherein the set of image utilization fields is stored on the external device.

22.³ The method according to claim 20 further including the step of editing the customizable profile in the external device.

23.⁴ The method according to claim 20 wherein the image utilization fields include a deletion field and further including the step of deleting the modified transferred captured image in accordance with the deletion field from the removable memory card in the digital camera after storage of such image in the external device.

24.⁵ The method according to claim 20 wherein the image utilization fields include an image editing preference application software field designating a software application stored in the external device and further including the step of applying the designated user preferred application software to the modified transferred captured image.

25.⁶ The method according to claim 20 wherein the external device includes a database and further including the step of updating the camera database and the external device database before the captured images are transferred from the digital camera to the external device so that both the camera database and the external device database include the same profiles.

26.⁷ A computer program product having instructions therein for causing the external device to perform the method of claim 20.

34. The method of claim 20 wherein the external device is a service provider.